

Chapter 11 The Third Wheel

Katelyn was rushed to the hospital immediately. Swimming in and out of her unconsciousness, she could hear noises, as if a fight was occurring around her.

Sharon, gritting her teeth with fury, glared at Neil, who had arrived at the hospital quite late.

"Neil, what promises did you make when you married Katelyn? You've only been married for three years and you've already cheated on her. You scumbag!"

Neil glanced at Katelyn lying on the hospital bed. She appeared pale, her eyes shut, her right hand connected to an IV drip. The hospital gown hung loosely on her, making her seem more fragile than ever, as if a mere gust of wind could whisk her away.

A sharp pang of guilt surged through Neil as he looked at her, but he quickly pushed it aside, ignoring Sharon's fiery glare.

"Who is that woman? Tell us!" Sharon demanded, barely containing her rage.

Neil, struggling to maintain his composure, responded, "This is a matter between Katelyn and me. Please, don't get involved."

Jeff interjected sharply, "Nonsense! My daughter has been tormented because of you, and now you tell us to stay away?"

Sharon then threatened, "We're not letting this go. If you don't come clean about who the other woman is, I'll go to the media and expose how you've cheated on my daughter."

She was well-prepared to handle such deceitful behavior.

Neil, increasingly agitated and running low on patience, thought back to how if it weren't for this couple pushing Lise away, she

wouldn't have left the country, and his frustration grew.

Yet, acknowledging their authority as his in-laws, he responded, "Look, our marriage didn't work out, and there's fault on both sides. It's unfair to lay all the blame at my feet."

Sharon's anger intensified at Neil's deflection.

"Enough with your excuses! Men like you who betray their wives deserve to be punished."

At that moment, Katelyn's eyes fluttered open, slowly coming to grips with her surroundings and the familiar scent of sanitizer.

Seeing her mother in a heated argument with Neil, she croaked weakly, "Mom."

Sharon quickly set aside her irritation and approached Katelyn's bedside. "Are you feeling all right, sweetie? I'll call the doctor over," she said, concerned.

Jeff handed Katelyn a glass of water. Across the room, Neil watched her with a cold expression.

Sharon assisted Katelyn to sit up, leaning comfortably against the headboard. The warm water soothed her thirst, making her feel considerably better.

Katelyn looked up at Neil, her gaze laden with disgust. "Dad, Mom, please ask him to leave. I don't want to see him here."

Sharon responded with a frown, "Absolutely not! He must face the consequences. We need to teach him a lesson."

Neil nearly laughed out of sheer fury, thinking about how if it weren't for the Bailey family's interference, he would have married Lise instead of Katelyn, whom he now saw as beneath him.

Katelyn, gaining strength, held Sharon's hand and pleaded, "Please, Mom, let it go. Even if Neil kneels and begs for forgiveness, I will never forgive him. I cannot continue with someone who betrayed me."

Her face was pale, yet her resolve was clear.

Neil's betrayal felt like a sharp pain in her heart. In the past, Sharon might have forgiven Jeff's infidelity to keep the family together, but Katelyn could not bear such a burden.

Sharon, saddened, tucked a strand of hair behind Katelyn's ear, saying softly, "My poor baby. You're such a wonderful person but ended up with such a cruel partner."

Katelyn managed a weak smile, seeing the worry etched in the grey strands at her mother's temple, she blamed herself.

"It's all my fault. I'm sorry for the stress, Dad, Mom. Luckily, I'm still young and can learn from my mistakes."

Jeff sighed deeply, his gaze turning stern as he looked at Neil.

"If I had known the kind of man you truly are, I never would have approved of your marriage to Katelyn."

Neil, unable to contain his frustration, shouted, "Katelyn, stop acting like you're the victim here! You know very well who the real intruder in this relationship is."

Enraged, Katelyn grabbed the water glass and hurled it at him, her patience finally shattered.

